

THE DELMAGE FAMILY OF IRELAND

Mary Delmage was the maternal Grandmother of Kenneth Genn, father of David Genn, the author of this work.

Mary Delmage was born in Sarnia, Lambton County, Ontario, about 1855/1856. She married Archibald King, probably in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Their daughter, Grace Jane King was born 10 November 1880 in Winnipeg and a son, Archibald Arthur King, on 16 July 1887, also in Winnipeg. Mary Delmage was descended from the Irish Palatines.

The story begins in the 17th century in the Rhine Valley of central Europe. At that time, the area we now know as Germany was a number of independent states, one of these being the Lower Palatine. There was a struggle for supremacy in Europe between these states, at times aided by Spain, France and the Scandinavian countries. This part of Germany had also seen the birth of Calvinism and the Lutheran church, which placed it in serious opposition to the established Roman Catholic Church. Conflict and instability resulted. The period 1618 to 1648 has been labelled by historians as the Thirty Years War, whereas the actual period of conflict went from about 1610 to 1660. With the destruction caused by the wars, the burden of taxes to pay for war, the conflict over religion, the severely depressed economy and repeated invasion by Louis XIV's troops, the decades following 1660 were a period of instability and hardship for the people of the Lower Palatine. The winter of 1708-9 was the severest in a century. The herds froze to death, the vines were destroyed.

Meanwhile, England, under Queen Ann (1702-1714) was in a period of empire building. People, especially Protestants, were needed to occupy the new lands. England opened the gates and the flood came. Between April and October of 1709, 13,146 people from the Lower Palatine travelled down the Rhine and across the English Channel. These "German Palatines" as they were called, were, by an act of Parliament, given full citizenship on arrival. For the most part, their ambition was to get to the Americas. They knew of the New World and they wanted a fresh start.

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Superficially, they have been called victims of religious persecution but actually, there were some 3000 Roman Catholics among them. The truth is, they were victims of political turmoil, war, a devastated economy, their religious differences, and now, the threat of starvation.

England was prepared to accept a few refugees but not 13,000. Some 1,600 tents had to be set up at Greenwich, Camberwell and Blackheath Common to accommodate them. England had no plan in place to distribute this many refugees. Political and social issues developed as a result. Some 3,000 were eventually shipped to New York and some 650 went to North Carolina. Others were taken to Pennsylvania. A few made it to Jamaica and the Bahamas. Some 2,000 to 3,000 were absorbed into England, to the private estates and businesses, the military and for government projects like canal building.

Mortality claimed its share and some even returned to their homeland. The 3,000 Catholics were shipped back to Holland. The grandest scheme was to move some 3,000 Palatines to Ireland. This was an opportunity to challenge the powerful Roman Catholic establishment in Ireland. On 10 September 1709, the first of these 3,093 "Irish Palatines" arrived in Dublin.

Forty commissioners were appointed to oversee the project. This included Sir Thomas Southwell (pronounced "suttle") who was to earn a reputation as the Palatines' most philanthropic supporter by settling 103 Palatine families on his estate in County Limerick and also providing materials for building their homes. Ireland was somewhat of a disappointment for the refugees and some of them found their way back to England. Of the 821 Palatine families that arrived in Ireland in 1709, by 1710 only about 500 remained. By 1711, only 314 families remained and by 1720, the number was down to 185.

These first Irish Palatines were allowed eight acres of land for each family at a rent rate of six shillings per acre per anum. The Government may have paid some or all of this for a number of years. There is conflicting information as to whether additional land was granted for women and children.

In the 1690's, in the village of Freimersheim, some 4 kilometers south of Alzey, in the Lower Palatine, we meet

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Johannes Adam Dolmetsch, son of Jacob Dolmetsch.
The Dolmetsch family was Lutheran. Johannes was married to Anna and their children were:

Gerhardt Dolmetsch, baptized, 22 August 1697.
Johann Jacob Dolmetsch, baptized, 28 January 1700.
Barbara Dolmetsch, born 1702, died in 1706, age 4 yrs.
3 mo.
A son, born about 1703/4, probably either Adam or Johannes.

Anna, wife of Johannes Dolmetsch, died 9 February 1706, age 30. On 18 July 1706, Johannes Dolmetsch was married to Elizabetha Kieffer. The children by the second marriage were:

Maria Eva Dolmetsch, baptized, 18 March 1707.
Anna Catharina Dolmetsch, baptized, 17 February 1709.

The name Dolmetsch translates into English as "interpret". It descends from an old Hungarian name, Tolmacz.

Johann Dolmetsch, age 30, his wife, Anna, sons aged 12, 9, and 6 years, and daughters, aged 2 and 1/2 years, were in the third party of Palatines to pass through Rotterdam, Holland, in 1709. Johann Dolmetsch was listed as Lutheran, a husbandman and vinedresser. They crossed the channel on the sailing vessel *Batchelor* and arrived at the camp at Blackheath on 2 June 1709. After a stay of about three months they were transported to Ireland and were settled on the estate of Sir Thomas Southwell, near Rathkeale, County Limerick. The townland where they were settled was called Castlematrix (or Castlematress). This Rathkeale townland should not be confused with the nearby castle overlooking the River Deel called Castle Matress or Castle Matrix. This castle, built in the 15th century by the Earls of Desmond and once the home of Sir Walter Raleigh, now serves as a guesthouse. For simplicity sake, references to the townland will be written as one word, references to the castle will be written as two words.

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CASTLE MATRIX

Of the 185 Palatine families that remained in Ireland, most prospered. They had some advantages over their local Irish neighbors. They were ambitious and hard working. As trained husbandmen, vinedressers and craftsmen, they had the skills

to make the land produce. As Protestants they were favored by the system. They were given land leases at rates less than that paid by their Irish neighbors.

The Irish Palatines formed rather exclusive and tightly knit communities, much like the Mennonite and Amish communities of America. The German language persisted for three to four generations but gradually gave way to English (most of the Irish still spoke Gaelic). They were bound together by the Protestant faith, Lutheranism gradually giving away to Methodism. They were unique among the Irish by being loyal to the British crown. They maintained their German customs of community politics, appointing a Burgomeister to settle disputes. Their darker complexion and small brown eyes and

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dark hair made them distinguishable to their Irish neighbors. The Irish attitude toward these unusual people was generally one of contempt, occasionally one of hostility.



DELMEGE HOME, KILLHEEN

The Dulmages/Delmages became the most economically successful of the Palatine families. They held nearly 40 acres at Castlematrix, which was part of Sir Thomas Southwell's holdings. Their main crops were flax and hemp. They also grew cabbage to make sauerkraut, turnips and apples, and potatoes to feed their pigs. The Delmages were probably the only tenants at Castlematrix townland, suggesting that they had gained special favor with their landlord, Thomas Southwell.

The most impressive house in Castlematrix was "Court Lodge" owned by Tobias Delmage. It was a two storey, many roomed structure on the east side of the road to Courtmatrix, its front yard causing a jog in the road. Courtmatrix (sometimes written Courtmatress) is a townland south of Rathkeale, County Limerick and was the site of the first and largest Irish Palatine settlement.

The Delmages were the only Palatines to gain financial prominence within the colony and their wealth and connections spread beyond Rathkeale. Several family members entered the professions, made correct marital matches, and the head of

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the family was granted a coat of arms in 1840.

The Irish Palatines anglicized their names. The record shows that the original German immigrants, John Dollmage, of Castlematress was buried 27 December 1751, and Elizabeth Dolmage of Castlematress was buried 30 May 1756, both at

Rathkeale (spellings are shown as recorded). Of their children,

Gerhardt Dolmetsch was now known as Garret Dulmage.

*Johann Jacob Dolmetsch had become Jacob Dulmage.

The third son is either John or Adam Dulmage.

The asterisk denotes a direct line ancestor of Mary Delmage.

Daughters of the second marriage, Maria Eva Dolmetsch and Anna Catharina Dolmetsch didn't us leave much of a trail to follow but they may eventually be discovered through further research.

Jacob Dulmage, the direct ancestor of Mary Delmage, according to the records was a freeholder at Castlematrix in 1755, again in February 1759 and in 1776. He was on the Religious Census of Protestants in the Parish of Rathkeale in 1766. Jacob Dulmage married Margaret and their children were:

Garret, baptized 24 August 1742, probably the Garret Dolmage who was a freeholder at Ballyorgan on the Oliver Estate in January 1761, 1776 and 1783 and noted on a rental roll there about 1800.

*John, baptized 30 December 1744, possibly the John Dolmage who was also a freeholder at Ballyorgan on the Oliver Estate in January 1761 and in January 1765, 1776 and in 1783, and noted on a rental roll about 1800.

A possible third son may have been Jacob Dulmage who married Anna Barbara Switzer, 9 May 1749, both of Courtmatrix.

By 1760 things had started to change. The original 50 year leases were up for renewal but the terms were not as lenient. Rates went up to market value and the Palatines were expected to pay the same as the Catholics. Rents had increased by as much as six times.

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Sir Thomas Southwell had died in 1720 and his son, Thomas had married a Catholic. In addition the growth in Palatine population had consumed the available land. Some of the surplus Palatines would relocate to other parts of Ireland as new land was developed. Others would leave for America.

The Oliver family started to develop their land in south-east County Limerick about this time and eleven families relocated from the Rathkeale townlands of Courtmatrix, Castlematrix and Killeheen. Garret and John Delmege from Castlematrix, sons of Jacob were listed among them. John Delmege is the great-grandfather of Mary Delmage.

Castle Oliver, the manor house belonging to the Oliver family is a spectacular structure sitting in the middle of a 20,000-acre estate, near Kilfinane, County Limerick. The Olivers acquired their land after the Restoration. The Olivers are described as having "power without responsibility", their influence "pervasive and insidious". Their power stemmed from the loyalty of their tenants, most of them being Palatines. Palatine males were inducted into the Yeomanry and issued muskets, a privilege denied Catholics by law. One Rathkeale militia unit was known as the Loyal German Fusiliers. The Palatine Heritage Museum in Rathkeale has military badges and weaponry from Delmage households.

John Dolmage fathered James Delmage about 1777. James Delmage married Frances Switzer, 23 April 1797 and their children were:

Catherine Dolmage, baptized, 29 July 1798 at Rathkeale.

Christopher Dolmage, baptized, 25 November 1800, Rathkeale.

William Dolmage, baptized, 9 October 1803, at Rathkeale.

Edward Dolmage, baptized, 4 August 1805, at Castlematress.

Jane Dolmage, baptized, 20 January 1811 at Courtmatress.

*Arthur Dolmage, baptized, 25 April 1813 at Courtmatress.

Maria Dolmage, baptized, 26 May 1816, at Rathkeale.

Joseph Dolmage, baptized, 29 August 1819 at Courtmatress.

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Isabella Dolmage, baptized, 29 March 1822 at Courtmatress.

The exodus of Irish Palatines to America was to begin. The first group of Palatine emigrants from Ireland to America

left in 1760, arriving in New York City by August of that year. Amongst their numbers were Paul and Barbara (Ruttle) Heck and Philip and Margaret (Switzer) Embury. For the first few years this group attended the Lutheran Church but in 1769, in John Street, they began their Methodist Chapel. Methodism had arrived in America.

In a petition dated 1 February 1763 this first group of Palatines had asked Governor Monckton of New York for land to produce linen and hemp. Among the signatures on the petition were Jacob Dulmidge, Senr. and Jacob Dulmudge, Junr.

The first wave of Irish Palatines to America was, as they had been in Ireland, a cohesive group. They set up their own communities and practiced their customs, much as they had done in Ireland. The original flood of German Palatines to America in 1709 had been absorbed into the general population, along with other Europeans. They had not maintained their Palatine distinction.

When the American Revolution broke out, the Palatine women and children then in America fled to Canada as United Empire Loyalists. The men stayed behind and fought with the British. By 1785, we find that the Dulmages and Switzers had settled in the Ontario townships of Marysburg, Edwardsburg and Ernestown.

The Irish Palatines in Canada and those still in Ireland maintained contact and as a result there continued a sporadic trickle of Palatine emigration from Ireland to the New World.

Greater troubles came to the Irish Palatines in the 1820's. The end of the Napoleonic Wars was followed by a serious depression. Compounded by several years of crop failure across Ireland, with business and bank failures, famine was upon Ireland. Catholic terrorist groups, including the Whiteboys and the Rockites organized against the favored Protestants. Palatines were targeted. There were brutal murders and villages were burned. The second wave of

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emigration to Canada began. The Passenger and Immigration Lists Index shows that in 1823 Garret, Lawrence, Margaret, Richard and Sarah Dulmage arrived in Canada. In 1823 the families of Garret Dulmage, John Teskey and John Young are known to have settled in Lanark County west of Ottawa.

The Great Famine hit Ireland in the 1840's and this triggered the third wave of emigration to the New World. By the 1840's the population of Ireland had reached 8 million. At the time, half the population depended for survival on the potato crop and the crop had been blighted several years in a row. (Potatoes had been introduced to Ireland from America by Sir Walter Raleigh of Castle Matrix.) Between 1846 and 1855 some 2.5 million people left Ireland. A million or more starved to death. Today the population of Ireland is only 3.5 million. The Palatines had practiced mixed farming and fared considerably better than their Irish neighbors who were totally dependent on potatoes. The Palatines were able to provide these neighbors with some relief.

Now, lets get back to James Delmage, his wife Frances Switzer and their children. In the years following 1830, at least three of the sons of James and Frances Delmage, namely, William, Arthur and Edward, arrived in Canada. They appear, for various reasons, in Quebec church records. Their father, James Delmage, also came to Canada.

The records of the Methodist Church at Odelltown, Quebec, Canada, show a marriage on 11 August 1833 between William Delmage, age 27, Yeoman, of the Seigniory of La Cole and District of Montreal, and Cathrine Liddle, age 26, also of the Seigniory of La Cole. Further evidence would persuade us to believe that this is the son of James and Frances Delmage baptized at Rathkeale on 9 October 1803. He would be age 29, not 27. He is also the brother of Arthur Delmage, our direct ancestor.

The Methodist Church at Odelltown, Quebec, records children of William and Catherine Dulmage. William is listed as a farmer, of Roxham in the Seigniory of La Cole.

Samuel Dulmage, born, 22 May 1834, bapt. 10 November 1834.

Maria, born 15 January 1837, baptized, 7 March 1841.

Arthur, born, 17 April 1839, baptized, 7 March 1841.

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The Methodist Church at Odelltown also records the death of James Dalmage, of Sherrington in the Odell Town Circuit, formerly of Ireland, on 3 January 1843, buried at Douglasville. We assume this to be the father of William and Arthur, born in 1777. (Died at age 66).

The first evidence that our direct ancestor, Arthur Delmage, came to Canada is provided by his marriage record.

The records of the Methodist Church at Odelltown for the year 1840 also report that Arthur Dalmage of Sherrington, Farmer and Jane Boyd of St.Valentine, both parties being of age, after due publication of banns, were united in holy matrimony on 7 September 1840 in the presence of Edward Dalmage, brother of Arthur Dalmage aforesaid and Susannah Boyd, sister (crossed out and replaced by: Samuel Boyd, brother), by me, Thomas Turner, Brzth Wes. Missionery. The signatures are: Arthur Delmage, Jane Boyd, Edward Delmage, and Samuel Boyd.

Two children were born to Arthur and Jane Delmage in Quebec:

Ellen (or Helen) Delmage, born, 2 June 1841,
baptized, 29 December 1842.

Samuel Francis Delmage, born, 27 June 1843,
baptized, 15 May 1844.

Albert A. Delmage, born about 1846.

About 1847, Arthur and Jane Delmage and two children, Helen and Albert, moved to Sarnia, Lambton County, Ontario. Samuel may have been with them but appears to have died before 1858. He does not appear in the 1861 census but Samuel G. Delmage does.

In Sarnia, five more children were born to Arthur and Jane Delmage:

Francis Delmage, born about 1848.

Emma Delmage, born about 1851.

Amos I. Delmage, born about 1853.

*Mary W. Delmage, born about 1856.

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Samuel Cornelius Delmage, born about 1857.

The Sarnia, Lambton County census for 1861 confirms the foregoing. Arthur Delmage is listed as a laborer, from Ireland and a Wesleyan Methodist. His wife, Jane, also born in 1815, is listed as a Baptist born in England. The eldest two children, Helen and Albert, are listed as born in Canada East. The remaining five children are listed as being born in Canada West.

The Sarnia census for 1871 also supports the foregoing. Arthur and Jane Delmage are now age 56. The children still living at home are Mary W. Delmage, age 16 (this is how we discovered her middle initial); Albert A. Dulmage, age 25, Engineer; Amos I. Dulmage, age 18; and Samuel G. Dulmage.

Arthur Delmage died, according to the obituary in Mary Delmage's scrap book, "in Sarnia, at one o'clock pm on Wednesday March 7, 1877, in the 65th year of his age. Funeral will leave residence of his son, Amos Delmage, Queen Street at one o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, March 9th for the Methodist Cemetery"

In the next generation,

Ellen Delmage married John Whiting. Their son was Richard A. Whiting. Richard Whiting married Mary Wood; their son was Emory John Whiting.

Albert A. Delmage married Annie, a Baptist of French origin, and had a son, Nelson Delmage born about 1876. They are identified in the 1881 census for Sarnia.

Amos I. Delmage, also an Engineer, married Mary Jane and had five children: Albert E. A. Delmage, 1873; Thurza J. Delmage, 1875; George P. Delmage, 1877; Ellen G. Delmage, 1879; Samuel Delmage, 1881. The 1881 census for Sarnia confirms the foregoing. Amos is listed as a Baptist, his wife and children are listed as Church of England.

Samuel Cornelius Delmage married Violet Marshall, age 21, daughter of James and Kate Marshall. Samuel's age is given as 28. The marriage is recorded in the Lambton register. One of the witnesses was Richard Whiting, nephew of the groom through his sister, Ellen Delmage. Since Ellen was

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considerably older than this brother, she had a son old enough to witness the brother's marriage.

Samuel Cornelius Delmage secondly married Harriet C. Wood, sister of Richard Whiting's first wife, Mary Wood. Samuel Cornelius Delmage died in 1943 in St.Clair County, Michigan.

The Sarnia 1881 census also reports, at one address, Joseph Hoskins, age 29, English, a sawyer; his wife, Amelia Hoskins, age 23, English; Gertrude Delmage, age 3, English. This is somewhat puzzling. Amelia may have had the child before she married Joseph.

The 1851 agricultural survey for Lambton County lists Jacob Dolmage, farmer, age 26; Adam Dolmage, laborer, age 20; Ann Dolmage, Sen., age 60; Ann Dolmage, Jr., age 18; Betsey Dolmage, age 16. All are shown as from Ireland and of the Episcopalian faith. These are likely cousins of Arthur and may have been the incentive that brought Arthur and family to Lambton County.

At least two of Arthur Delmage's brothers also came to Canada.

Christopher Delmage, christened, 25 November 1800 at Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland, was the progenitor of the Delmages of Quebec.

Edward Delmage, christened, 4 August 1805 at Rathkeale, married Margaret Jane Barbour and sired the Delmages of Minnedosa, Manitoba.

The Palatines in Canada found things to be quite different from their Irish homeland. Ontario was already two thirds Protestant, English was the spoken language and The Palatines would be spread over much greater distances. Despite this, the Palatines maintained their cultural connections and sense of community for another couple of generations.

And so, in contemplating the Delmage family and the Irish Palatines, we home in on a people of spirit and tenacity, of honesty and decency, of firmness and resolve.

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They came only with their agricultural skills and through dedication and zeal they overcame, first, the hardship and hostility that confronted them in Ireland, then the challenges of trying to make their way in the New World. Eventually they would be absorbed by the general population and their unique ethnicity would dissolve, only to be contemplated by a few historians and genealogists. How many Canadians today have ever heard of an Irish Palatine?

Mary Delmage's marriage to Archibald King produced two children:

Grace Jane King, born in Winnipeg, 10 November 1880, died in Victoria, 1957. She had married Reginald Genn and their children are Kenneth Reginald Genn, born 21 November 1905; Hugh Douglas Genn, 5 September 1909; Grace Mary Genn, born 26 August 1911.

Archibald Arthur King, born in Winnipeg, 16 July 1887, died at Port Alice, B.C., 16 July 1952. He had married Skulfridd (Freda) Davis and their son is Archibald David King, born 25 August 1920.

The 1881 census for Winnipeg lists Arch'd King, age 27, born in Scotland, Presbyterian, a printer. His wife is listed as Mary D. King, age 26, born in Ontario, Presbyterian. of Irish descent. (The 1861 census had listed her as Mary Delmage; the 1871 census shows her as Mary W. Delmage.) The census would have been carried out in March/April of 1881. Daughter Grace Jane King would have been four or five months of age. She does not appear in the census at her parents address. The only documentation we have regarding Grace Jane King's birth date is an entry in a Bible given her by her mother, Christmas 1899.

A peculiar entry in the Canada Census, Victoria, BC, 14 May 1891, James Bay Ward, Division 7 reports Archibald King, age 51, born Ontario, parents from Scotland, Presbyterian, farmer. Also, Grace King, age 24, married, born U.S.A., Methodist, lodging house. Address was not given. Arthur and Jane Delmage, grandparents of Grace Jane King, were recorded as Methodists in Quebec before moving to Sarnia, Ontario.

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The 1891 census for City of Vancouver, District No.2, New Westminster, lists A. King, age 37, born in Scotland, both parents born in Scotland, Presbyterian, a compositor. His wife is listed as M. W. King, age 35, born in Ontario, father Irish, mother English, Presbyterian. Two children are listed, G.J. King, age 10, born in Manitoba, A. King, age 3, born in Manitoba. At the same address is A. Porter, age 26, born in Ontario, a compositor. It would appear that Archibald King is employed by a Vancouver newspaper and is sharing accommodations with a fellow employee.

Mary (Delmage) King died on 3 May 1904 and is buried at Ross Bay Cemetery, Victoria, BC

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